



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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Approved:

Chief Building Official

POOL FENCES & SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Swimming pools constructed in the City of Irvine shall comply with all pool safety requirements prescribed by the City codes and State Health and Safety law for pool enclosures and security.

The following code provisions shall apply:

Section 5-9-304 of the Irvine Municipal Code

Every person in possession of land within the City either as owner, purchaser under contract, lessee, tenant, license, or otherwise, upon which is situated as a swimming pool or other out-of-doors body of water designed, dipping or immersion by men, women, or children, having a depth in excess of 18 inches, shall maintain in good condition an enclosure or fence of any material or design, except as hereinafter provided substantially constructed not lower than five feet in height above the surface of the ground measured vertically from the outside grade and completely surrounding such pool or body of water. No opening between vertical members of a wood, metal picket, stake or other fence shall exceed four inches between members. No opening between horizontal members of a wood, metal or other fence shall exceed two inches between members. For a fence combining vertical and horizontal members, the opening requirements between members may meet either the requirements for vertical or for horizontal members. All enclosures and gates for swimming pools extend to within two inches of the ground.

The following interpretations of Section 5-9-304 will be used:

1. Fences, walls and complying enclosures are required to provide vertical height 60 inches from surrounding outside grade to top of fence. This measurement shall be taken and required immediately adjacent to the fence or wall, and from top of planter or similar type of device grade when located adjacent to the vertical fence or wall.

EXCEPTION: If adjacent yards contain walls which provide the required 60 inch high walls, but the measurement on the side of the fence containing the pool, is reduced by use of planters and equipment, such reduced clearances will be allowed on the pool side only.

2. There shall be no open horizontal stepping devices or horizontal ledges on or in the top 48 inch portion of required enclosure walls which will allow children or persons to use as a climbing device. All required walls or fences shall have a smooth vertical surface of at least 48 inches from top of protective enclosure.

All gates or doors opening through a swimming pool enclosure shall be equipped with a self-closing and self-latching device designed to keep such door or gate securely closed at all times when not in actual use. The unlocking or unlatching device shall be located not less than five feet above grade or steps at the gate or door measured vertically outside the enclosed areas. The unlocking or unlatching device may be located on the inside of the enclosure at less than the required five feet in height when not openable from the outside of the enclosure.

**Special swimming pool requirements for swimming pools at private single-family homes:
State Health and Safety Code Sections 115920-115927**

A permit for the construction of a new swimming pool shall require at least one of the following safety features:

- a) The pool shall be isolated from access to the home by a enclosure that meets the requirements of California Health and Safety Code Section 115923. NOTE: These requirements are met by complying with Irvine Municipal Code Section 5-9-304.
- b) The pool shall be equipped with an approved safety pool cover listed by an agency acceptable to the Chief Building Official.
- c) The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
- d) All doors providing direct access from the home to the swimming pool shall be equipment with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.

**Special community swimming pools requirements
City of Irvine Security Code**

Community swimming pools shall be secured as follows:

- a) Restroom doors and pool gates shall be equipped with automatic closure devices, dead latches, and a latch protector consisting of minimum 0.125-inch-thick steel, two (2) inches wide and six (6) inches long.
- b) The pool equipment room or enclosure to be secured with either a deadbolt lock or padlock with a minimum five (5) pin tumbler operation, minimum 3/8" thick shackle, and heel and toe locking.
- c) The on and off switch for the spa is to be keyed.

- d) Perimeter fencing, using either tubular steel or aluminum, is to be installed at a minimum height of six (6) feet. Vertical fence pickets are to be spaced not more than four- (4) inches on-center and be designed to discourage climbing.
- e) Emergency access to locked gates is to be provided through installation of a Knox box key vault which shall contain all keys required to enter the pool area at any time. The box is to be installed within eight (8) feet of the gate and placed between four (4) and five (5) feet above ground level.
- f) Selection of landscaping is to consider height of plants regarding providing needed visibility into pool area from adjacent uses, buildings, and streets.
- g) All entrances to non-public pools/spas shall have signage
- h) Selection of landscaping is to consider height of plants regarding providing needed visibility into pool area from adjacent uses, buildings, and streets.
- i) All entrances to non-public pools/spas shall have signage indicating it is private property and no trespassing allowed.
- j) A public telephone allowing for 911 calls is to be installed and maintained within twenty-five feet (25') of the main entry gate.
- k) Accessible luminaries shall have vandal resistant light fixtures and be not less than three (3) feet in height from ground level when used to illuminate walkways and a minimum of eight (8) feet in height from ground level when illuminating surfaces associated with vehicles. Light fixtures shall be deemed accessible if mounted within fifteen (15) feet vertically or six (6) feet horizontally from any accessible surface or any adjoining roof, balcony, landing, stair tread, platform or similar structure.
- l) Swimming pool decks and other hard surfaces recreation activity areas shall be illuminated with a minimum maintained one (1) foot-candle of light on the walking surface during the hours of operation and one hour thereafter. Activation of the required exterior lighting shall be either by a photocell device or a time clock with an astronomic clock feature.